

Dear Committee,

I grew up in Portland and I continue to live in Portland as an adult. I have been a Portland resident for 30 years.

I am calling for an Amendment House Bill 4208. I ask that you remove the Riot exemptions for the use of tear gas or other similar chemical dispersants. Instead, make illegal the sale, purchase, or use of tear gas and all less lethal crowd control munitions in all law enforcement. Also require cooperation and consent of State and local officials for the use of any of these measures by federal law enforcement.

You also need to enact policies to fix the broken policing system in our state. We need to take much of police funding and direct it to community services instead. For the much smaller police force that will be around after that funding reprioritization, we need DIFFERENT TRAINING. Police are currently trained to view all citizens as threat first and because they show up to every engagement primed for war, they escalate all situations.

This is your responsibility as policy makers in this state. It is my responsibility as a citizen to demand it. Tear gas and other crowd control measures are just one of the tools for dismantling civil liberties. We need to remove all capacity for police to dismantle civil liberties and leave in place all their capacity to protect civil liberties.

Allowing the police to determine when tear gas and other "crowd control" measures are appropriate is not working because what is happening now is that all police have to do is declare a peaceful protest is a riot and then they get to do whatever they want and it's "within policy." That's putting unarmed citizens in harms way and you can stop it.

Change. The. Policies.

Thank you for the work you are doing,

Jaydra Perfetti

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